

THE EVENING STAR.
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CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a news and advertising medium it has no competitor.

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The Fifty-Sixth Congress.
If the Fifty-sixth Congress confronts problems of unusual difficulty and importance, it is comforting to know that it begins work under conditions unusually favorable to success.

It is in political agreement in both branches with the President. The rule is that the Congress elected between presidential terms is in its majority opposed to the executive. The disappointments that inevitably follow the inauguration of a new President in the matter of the federal patronage always tell in the congressional campaign, and, as a rule, against the party in power. The disappointments arising from this cause were numerous enough in the fall of 1898, and there were other difficulties in the way of republican success. But, in spite of them, the republicans carried the House, and materially increased their strength, securing a comfortable majority in the Senate. In this particular, therefore, the present Congress is an exception.

Although thirteen months have elapsed since the election, the instructions delivered by the people then hold good today. Nothing has occurred since to change them in their general bearing in the slightest. Sound money is still the most important of issues, and legislative action is on the cards in consonance with the demands of the time. The treaty with Spain had not been signed in November of last year, but its terms already stood unmistakably indicated, and expansion consequently was an accepted fact. The revolt subsequently of Aguinaldo did not change matters. With the acquisition of the new territory came the necessity of controlling it, and in many respects the country has been better prepared for the President soon had reason to feel that he had taken both the wise and the popular course. Besides, the state elections of last month set all of that matter at rest.

The House majority will be free at the outset from any friction over the offices of the House. The contests for places have all been settled in advance, and in a way that leaves no room for complaint. More of large experience are in the lead. The average is fifteen years of congressional service to those who will cut out the principal work and direct its execution. The Speaker is at once personally popular and politically aggressive. He has no policies to oppose to the policies of his party. He believes in hard work and plenty of it, and is doubtless prepared to do his share of it. And so the probabilities are that, to the extent of his influence, the business of the session will be pressed with energy by the Speaker, and a seasonable adjournment, with the table cleared, effected.

The country manifests no uneasiness, and has no reason to feel any. The policies which have contributed toward making it great and prosperous will be continued, and whatever of new legislation may be necessary cannot be much, if at all, out of plumb if fashioned according to the promises of those responsible for it.

Secretary Root on Porto Rico.

Secretary Root's discussion of the case of Porto Rico in the course of his annual report is clearly the most important feature of the document, which at such a time as this holds many possibilities for interesting the people. He approaches the matter from a legal standpoint, which he is personally well fitted to occupy. His broad denunciation is that the people of the island are as yet unprepared to recognize the power of the majority. This tendency, he believes, is the worst of the island, and the worst of the South American and West Indian republics. It must be checked before self-government in all its attributes can be accorded to such populations without involving many chances for trouble. Secretary Root believes that the process of educating the Porto Ricans to a proper appreciation of the American system can readily be instituted, with every prospect of success. By extending to the island certain of the federal laws and customs, and by inaugurating a safe degree of local self-government, the inhabitants will quickly be brought into contact with a majority power which they must respect. It will bring to them definite, practical benefits, which they are in a condition to appreciate. It will give them peace and order, and will minimize, more equitable taxation, wider opportunities for competition in the labor field, broader markets for their products, more accessible educational advantages, and, above all, immunity from an irresponsible despotism from which there is no appeal. Mr. Root's observations along this line might very well serve as a model for congressional action. It is assumed that he is in accord on his position with the President, and perhaps his report foreshadows the President's message in this particular. If so, the Porto Ricans may rest content that their case is being advanced by conservative, constructive means. The matter deserves additional importance from the fact that the case of Porto Rico is but slightly different from that of the Philippines, and that the same recommendations, with minor changes incidental to the difference in area and natural elements, are likely to be advanced in respect to the more distant insular possession.

Rhode Island has made its annual bow as one of the great states of the Union because it furnished the President with his Thanksgiving turkey.

The Roberts Case in the House.
The action of the leading republican members of the House who met in conference on the Roberts case last evening is probably to be accepted as forecasting the action of the House in the premises. Mr. Roberts, according to reports from this meeting, is not to be permitted to take the oath, but is to be held in suspension, as it were, pending a decision upon his right to enter the House, which is to be considered by a special committee. This does not, of course, mean that Mr. Roberts is certain to be excluded from Congress, for, as far as is known, the conference did not go so far as to determine in advance of an investigation that the Utah member should be deemed guilty of a violation of the laws. It seems to be assumed, however, that an inquiry will be conducted to establish the fact that he is living in polygamy, and that he has not kept strict faith with the United States in his personal relations. He has admitted, indeed, the fact of polygamous living, but denies that this constitutes a violation of law. Clearly, an investigation is required, and the matter is being referred to a special committee to determine whether it is better than that of throwing the case into the House for original inquiry, with all the confusion and loss of time which such a course would involve.

There was apparently some difference of opinion as to the advisability and legality of preventing Mr. Roberts from taking the oath of membership. Precedents were cited, however, which seemed to dispel all question satisfactorily to those in attendance, and it may be assumed that they are

such as to satisfy the majority of the House. These are in particular the cases of certain Kentuckians who attempted to take their seats after the civil war and upon presentation, were accused of disloyalty and required to stand aside while the House proceeded with its organization. Were the democratic members of the House disposed to champion the cause of Roberts this course might perhaps lead to friction and factional bitterness in the first stages of the session despite the precedents. It appears, however, that there is a tendency among the republicans to uphold the right of the polygamist to enter the House, provided the charges against him are valid. Consequently it is regarded as extremely doubtful whether there will be any serious disturbance over the matter Monday, from partisan causes.

This course is greatly to be desired. The Roberts case is too important in itself and in its consequences to be complicated with the elements of party politics. It embraces Utah's right to statehood, as may be disclosed by the manner in which that commonwealth has observed the spirit and the letter of the compact with the United States.

The "Slasher."

There is evidently a foundation in fact for the public belief that some person is acting about Washington cutting women's dresses. Reports of slashed garments have been received by the police and have been circulated privately in such volume and under such circumstances that there can be no doubt of the operations of a crank or a thief. There seems to be, however, no sign of the person who would seem to be the cause of such a mischief. In the absence of some motive the "slasher's" case must be set down to a form of destructive insanity. Such evil-doers are usually abnormally clever in escaping detection. A case in point is that of the notorious "ripper" who operated here a few years ago, and who, it was found to be a mere coincidence, apparently small intelligence. Notwithstanding his low natural development he committed the most daring and skillful burglaries for months without detection, thus displaying an uncanny ability which for a time completely baffled the police.

Assuming that the "slasher" is of the sane sort, it would seem to be all the more important that the authorities should redouble their efforts to detect him. For he or it may be she is certain, if mentally afflicted in this way, to persist in the destructive work, doubtless with greater zest as time passes. The theaters appear thus far to have been a favorite field of operations. In the remodeling of the opera house there is a good opportunity for a sly hand to cut freely among the skirts. One of the curious phases of the matter is that the cuts are never deep enough to inflict a wound, showing that the crank is not inspired by bloody malice.

The only remedy for this condition would seem to be to establish special guards in the theaters, and to have the police and unofficial costume at these places of public resort, where the dress cutter might be expected to operate. This has already been done in some measure, but the nuisance continues unabated, and there is additional reason for the belief that the "slasher" is not a person, but a thing. It is known that several women have had their dresses cut in this manner without venturing to report to the police, shrinking from publicity. As a help in the hunt for the miscreant all who thus suffer from his work ought to send the facts at once to the authorities, thus contributing to the knowledge as to his sphere of actions. By such co-operation results may be attained.

Chamberlain's Warning to France.

Lord Rosebery criticizes Mr. Chamberlain's warning to France. The Paris papers dismiss the colonial secretary's admonition as empty verbiage. Nevertheless it is a fair assumption that there will be a marked turning in the tide of French opinion, and that Chamberlain's rebuke will have its good effect. It is to be recalled that Sir Edmund Monson's hint to France to stop "pin pricking" checked the stream of bitterness after the Fashoda affair. The French people are susceptible to threats of foreign anger when they are on the eve of a great undertaking to which the world is invited. There is too much serious reconstructive work to be done in the French army before the republic can put a chip on its shoulder and dare any large power to knock it off. Mr. Chamberlain's warning was in every sense justified. Lord Rosebery is too far removed from the practical exigencies of statesmanship to gain much prestige as a critic, having deliberately poised himself to the position of a dilettante in politics.

"Criminal Aggression" at Bayonong.

There is good news from General Otis today to the effect that the American troops at Bayonong, once chosen as the rebel capital, have captured a large insurgent force and considerable property, besides releasing seventy six natives and two American prisoners. A lieutenant with fifty cavalrymen and three native scouts, persuaded an insurgent general and 800 men armed with Mausers to surrender. This instance will perhaps be cited as a sign of the tyranny of the minority.

Mr. Bryan never has any complaint to offer about the railway sandwich and the exorbitant porter. If there is any one man who should seem qualified to speak on these evils of travel, it is he. Yet he clings to free silver.

A western school teacher shut a boy up in a dark closet and threatened him with ghosts. The boy went insane. Some school teachers have a great deal to learn.

Great Britain may need an occasional press-censor in its business, but it has had too much experience to depend on this kind of talent for actual results.

Mr. Roberts will in any event fare better than the average polygamist, who may think himself lucky if he keeps from being arrested.

Mr. Choate appears to be pretty close to one of those conversational crises which come to nearly every diplomat's career.

The czar does not indulge in any alliance talk, but merely goes ahead and buys war material.

Running Mates.

The nomination of Governor Hogg of Texas for Vice President by the Texas state assembly at a public meeting, in the presence of Mr. Bryan, who in kindly spirit entered into the complimentary nature of the affair, brings up a question which is of interest to both parties, and which is just now the subject of some discussion. As Mr. McKinley and Mr. Bryan seem reasonably assured of opposing each other again next year, to what extent may each be expected to exert an influence in the completion of the ticket which he will head? Will Mr. McKinley care to speak on the subject at all? Naturally he will desire a strong running mate, but his party in 1896, without a word from him or his friends, made such an admirable selection that he may feel leaving the matter entirely to the party again. Some very excellent men are mentioned for the place, and any one of them, both by reason of locality and personal deserts, would run well, and, if elected, fill the office most acceptably. There is really no good reason why Mr. McKinley should give the matter a thought.

It is different with Mr. Bryan. He has occasion to be a trifle anxious on that score, and for two reasons. The offerings are numerous, and nearly all are sentimental. One man is very eloquent. Another has carried the silver flag where it requires the highest civic courage to carry it. Another has a barrel. Another, after a career

of so-called fashion, seeks excitement in politics, and modestly wants to begin at the top. And so on.

Then, in 1896, the democrats tripped up on their vice presidential nomination. They selected a man of ability and of irreproachable life, but he had no political following at home, and he failed to satisfy the populist allies. The populists were so displeased, indeed, that they insisted on making a vice presidential nomination of their own. And thus Mr. Bryan found himself with one head and two tails, and at a serious disadvantage on the electoral map. Watson was objectionable to the democrats, and Mr. Seavill to the populists.

For next year Mr. Bryan should have but one running mate, and he should be most judiciously chosen. And maybe when matters pass the stage of mere personal compliment, and the proper time comes, the Nebraska will yield to the necessity of expressing a preference.

So long as it holds out as a meat and grain center Chicago probably does not care much whether it is revered as a musical Mecca or not.

If David B. Hill's enemies gloat sufficiently over his retirement they may succeed in advertising him into importance once more.

The Sultan of Sulu has his discomforts, but no doubt he has some satisfaction in the fact that he does not hail from Utah.

The Boers do not use many words. But they are extremely prodigal with ammunition.

SHOOTING STARS.

Valuation.
"I am afraid you do not appreciate popularity at its full value."

"I ought to be able to," rejoined Senator Sorghum. "I have paid for enough of it."

The Mormon and the Proverb.
There is a woman in each case—
This life would seem like fun
Since I have ventured in this race
If there were only one.

Reliable Medicine.

"Do you believe in mind cure?"
"Yes," answered Mr. Meekton's wife. "It sometimes works with matters of habit. Every time I give Mr. Meekton a piece of my mind about smoking it cures him for several days."

Diplomacy.

"I am sorry you asked me for that small lean just now," exclaimed the friend. "It is a coincidence that has developed annoying frequency."

"I'm sorry if I have troubled you," said Mr. Fuchas.
"You trouble, except a sense of disappointment. You see my uncle is always writing me letters of advice. He is continually telling me to learn to say 'no' and your little requests always seem to come just when I am practicing."

Behind the Carving Knife.

Happy the man who, when the autumn chill
Braces the air with an exultant thrill,
Can look his turkey in the face and say,
"Your presence here brings no regret today."
For when I carve you, an unselfish skill
Sharpens my trusty blade and schools my will.
In purest generosity I strive to peel
The luscious white meat with my dextrous steel.
When such is served with what to him
Seems best
I humbly make selection from the rest.
Nor breathe complaint, but say in accents
nice,
"Pray let me help you to another slice."
Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's come
in turn.

Forbidding him to eat ere he shall earn
Commanding him to sit in solemn state
On guard over every other person's plate.
Let some one should in modesty restrain
His bashfulness and fear to come again.
Happy the man whose philosophic soul
At such a time his feelings can control.
Who, like a martyr, can sit up and carve
And catch some stray bits that he may not starve.

The Pulpit and Expansion.

From the Indianapolis Journal.
It is significant as showing the growth of the sentiment of expansion among thoughtful men that the ministers in the United States have devoted a considerable portion of their discourses last Sunday to an advocacy of the theory of expansion of the influence and force of American civilization. Neither of these discourses could be claimed as belonging to the President's party. Both of the speakers, however, were in the line of the extension of the influence of the United States in lands which know nothing of good government or of that civilization which the United States represents. While quite a number of clergymen have expressed themselves with more or less vehemence in opposition to the Philippine policy, the more deliberate opinion of by far the larger number of preachers is in favor of expansion. They deprecate war and its attendant evils, but they insist that they are able to see that American control insures civil and religious liberty.

Responsibility for Dirty Streets.

From the Cleveland Leader.
There is great difficulty in preventing the littering of public highways with the kind of rubbish. Millions of Americans foolishly and thoughtlessly resort any at all to littering the streets with their refuse. They throw away their trash, their empty boxes, banana peelings, or anything else into the gutters or drop such rubbish on the sidewalks. They do this because they do well if they avoid depositing the worst of their refuse on sidewalks. The rights and convenience of the public are lost sight of in their exaggerated and ill-digested notion of personal freedom.

Such habits are a strong barrier in the way of real cleanliness and order. Shall the pavements be better kept than the sidewalks? That is what the expectorating, rubbish-dropping American freeman may well demand. He is not to be deterred by the argument that as long as he is unrestrained in his practices it will be inconsistent to grumble much about the condition of the streets, provided that they can be washed with rubber boots.

In the schools and at home, in every society and organization, it ought to be insisted upon that no man has a moral right to be foul or litter the sidewalks, the street cars, or any public place whatever.

Chicago as a Seaport.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.
When that first 300,000 cubic feet of water shall be turned into the Chicago canal next month, it will find itself the forerunner of commerce. If the Chicago press be equaled in execution the entire maritime world will soon be anchored at Ler docks. She will be a port of two gulfs, the St. Lawrence and the Mexican.

With remarkable foresight Chicago has dug this canal deep enough to carry a vessel as the Olympic. The improvement of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers would make a grand trunk ship canal, which would rival the achievement of the Erie canal in the fact that it would carry the waterway from the Baltic to the Black. It would pass through the heart of the best country on the earth, and would bear such a burden of commerce that there would be a procession 3,000 miles long, from New Orleans to Montreal, and the ship yards along its course would yield American ships to American waters.

This need not be an empty dream. De Lesseps cut the continent of Africa from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and the two Americas, Nicholas is cutting Europe through the heart, Chicago is the eye of the world, the United States. What the highest of the commercial extension of the twentieth century will win the favor of that century.

WHAT A GRAND SUCCESS

—Cream Blend Flour made of hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners. Folks are not yet done praising this famous flour for the eminent satisfaction it gave. It's at just such times as Thanksgiving—when the success of a dinner depends much on the flour you use—that the sterling quality of "Cream Blend" is fully appreciated. Good cooks and intelligent housewives know that "Cream Blend" is best beyond compare.

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Those who once try our Famous OLD GOVERNMENT JAVA AND MOKCHA COFFEE won't have any other. They would be willing to walk miles for it. It's the very best that money can buy. Roasted fresh, daily.
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1719 PENNA AVE.—Branch, 11th and H.
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35c. Extracts

—We've made a "scoop." Bought an importation of FRENCH EXTRACTS (2 odors—Violet and White Rose), that usually sell for 35c. ounce. At a price that enables us to sell them for 10c.
—In one ounce bottles with sprinkler top. It's a snap for Christmas buyers.

OGRAM'S,
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New Articles For Christmas

—in gold, silver and leather—
goods that are distinctively new and to be had only of us.
GOLD WATCHES make very desirable Xmas gifts. We have them, guaranteed perfect time keepers, 14k, for \$25 up.

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Collar and Cuff Boxes, 49c.
Leather Toilet Sets, 49c.
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It's superior to ordinary bread. It's whiter, lighter and whole. Home-made bread. You have only to try it to see for yourself that it is the best. Bread is best.
Havenner's "Domestic."
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\$1.50 SETS Knives and FORKS.

Your table would be ornamented and improved with a set of Fine Standard Knives and Forks (6 of each) that we offer this week at the special low usual price of - - - - - \$1.50.
Famous Razors, \$1.50.
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- WAITERS' APRONS 13c.
- Johnson & Luttrell Annex.

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